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John D. Monahan

February 3, 2009

**Testimony of**  
**John D. Monahan, Administrator**  
**before the**  
**Select Committee of Veterans Affairs**  
**of the**  
**Connecticut General Assembly**

**Subject: Proposed Bill No. 5906 - An Act Concerning Veterans' Benefits**  
**for Members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps**

Senator Maynard, Representative Graziani, Members of the Committee:

While I believe that the Proposed Bill is well intentioned and seeks to recognize contributions to the war effort on the part of the individuals concerned, I do not favor an expansion of the definition of "wartime veteran" to include this group. The issue in terms of veteran status with regard to this population is that the US Cadet Nurse Corps was an arm of the United States Public Health Service, not the military. Nurses were recruited and trained by the USPHS and then served in assignments including hospitals run by the US Public Health Service, Army, Navy, Veterans Administration, and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Assignments of those individuals trained in New York State hospitals under the program included 6.4% to military hospitals (see reference below). Cadet Nurses were not in the military, did not receive military training, were not subject to military discipline, and were not, to my knowledge, subject to deployment outside the United States to combat zones, as were their Military Nurse counterparts. One of the stated purposes of the program was, in fact, to free up nursing counterparts of the Cadet Nurses for overseas assignments as military nurses. Expanding eligibility to this group would beg the question of eligibility for other USPHS employees during wartime (Physicians/other USPHS Nurses serving before the institution of the Cadet Nurse Corps program, Nurse's Aides/orderlies, etc.). Such an expansion of eligibility to "wartime veteran" status also calls into question where the line should be drawn with regard to other individuals who contributed substantially to the war effort but were not members of the Armed Forces, for example, skilled factory workers, civilian employees of the military services, workers in strategic industries such as railroads, mines, shipyards, ports, munitions, etc. Verification of eligibility would potentially pose difficulties. Since these individuals were not members of the Armed Forces they would not have received military discharge documents. It is my view that, to the degree possible, the State of Connecticut should adhere to the definitions of the term "veteran" and the definition of "wartime service" contained in Title 38 USC, and as currently specified in CGS 27-103.

Further information may be found at:

[www.viahealth.org/body\\_rochester.cfm?id=512](http://www.viahealth.org/body_rochester.cfm?id=512)

<http://lhncbc.nlm.nih.gov/apdb/phsHistory/resources/cadetnurse/nurse.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadet\\_Nurse\\_Corps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadet_Nurse_Corps)

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